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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/817,970	03/27/2001	Demetri Giannopoulos	US 010116	9863

24737 7590 07/10/2003

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EXAMINER

DEMAKIS, JAMES A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2836

DATE MAILED: 07/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/817,970

Applicant(s)

GIANNOPOULOS, DEMETRI

Examiner

James A Demakis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5 and 7-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 6 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2-3.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3,5,7-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crouse et al (USPN 5925990) and in view of Goder et al (USPN 5978195).

Regarding claims 1-3,5,7-24:

Crouse et al discloses a microprocessor controlled electronic ballast for a gas discharge lamp. The ballast 50 includes an inverter 54, which contains a microprocessor 65, and driver 67 driving MOS transistors Q3 and Q4, alternately; and forming, along with capacitor 36 and inductor 35, a half bridge, series resonant, direct coupled output signal generator; thus driving the lamp 39 with a pulse voltage waveform. Microprocessor 65 couples high frequency pulses, which contain programmed information as inputs to the driver 67, along with a disable signal input 71 for shutting down the inverter output to the lamp, due to abnormal voltage conditions and, in addition, an analog fault detector can adjust the duty cycles of the high frequency pulses to provide regulation of the output voltage of the ballast, see col. 2, lines 39-55. The programmable microprocessor inherently allows modification due to overload conditions and/or shutdown of the inverter; see Col.8, lines 33-67.

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Crouse et al does not disclose selective protection of transient fault conditions of any circuit, although implied. Goder et al discloses a circuit protection arrangement 100 that includes multiple fault protection features useable in overload conditions of power conversion circuits including those with PWM controllers. Transients are discriminated against by soft start delays and other timing programming features, see col. 1, lines 55-67; Col. 2, lines 37-60; Col. 3, lines 4-45.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Crouse et al by the teachings of Goder et al to avoid dissipating additional power in case of a temporary fault due to reset by timing programming.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 4,6,8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A Demakis whose telephone number is 703.305.7938. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 703.308.3119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703.308.7721 for regular communications and 703.308.7721 for After Final communications.

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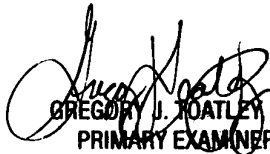
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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703.308.0956.

James A. Demakis

JAD

June 29, 2003


GREGORY J. TOATLEY JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER